

Air Force responds with medical support

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — The Air Force worked around the clock to coordinate relief to victims of terrorist attacks that took place Sept. 11.

Secretary of the Air Force James Roche contacted the Federal Emergency Management Agency immediately following the first reports of these attacks and offered maximum Air Force assets including personnel and equipment.

“Our vigilance and response was quick and purposeful, potentially limiting the extent of this terrible tragedy,” said Roche

and AF Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper in a joint message to servicemembers.

The Air Force mobilized medical critical care units, aeromedical evacuation teams, and critical incident stress management experts and other airlift assets in support of the president’s activation of the National Disaster Medical System.

The Air Force provided expeditionary medical support in direct support of the New York City attack, delivering 1,600 units of blood and deploying 400 medics to McGuire Air Force Base, N.J., now serv-

ing as the medical support hub.

Additionally, more than 1,800 Air Force medics were placed on standby, ready to respond when required.

Expeditionary medical support teams were mobilized in response to the disasters and were positioned at various staging facilities.

These teams comprise portable hospitals composed of surgical teams, critical care specialists and public health teams, and other specialties.